

BIOS FOR ELECTION OF NHIA DIRECTORS 2024

Every vote counts: Empower your industry to shape a better future

These are the following six nominations that have been received for two positions, (listed below in alphabetical order). The two nominations that secure the most votes will be elected and announced at the [AGM](#).

- **Carmel Clarke** nominated by Tallangatta Farm Services
- **Ronnie Hibma** nominated by Nexus Herd Development
- **Chris Kendall** nominated by Numurkah NuGenes
- **Anna Norgren** nominated by ST Genetics
- **Adam Sawell** nominated by Holstein Australia
- **Geoffrey Watts** nominated by Genetics Australia

Carmel Clarke

Dairy is in my DNA. From a very young age I would be in the dairy or out on the farm. I still have a strong involvement in my family's dairy farm based in the Riverina in NSW.

Like many Australians, after agricultural college I ventured overseas. Whilst there I worked in a mixture of agricultural roles before joining an animal biotech company for ten years, who are pioneers in bovine genetic improvement. The roles I held within that company took me to multiple European countries and USA. The positions held included lead trainer and assessor, manager of 30 technicians and sales staff, along with technical services positions.

Upon returning to Australia, I have worked for a number of industry/farmers facing service providers in several states, along with another global industry leader in bovine genetics and technology services.

I am passionate about training and educating the future of the bovine industry and have been involved in some NHIA projects relating to the AI training here in Australia.

Carmel Clarke 0418 802 050

cclostinuk@hotmail.com

Ronnie Hibma

I am driven by a commitment to leadership excellence, and I believe NHIA can greatly benefit from my diverse range of skills and experiences across various industries.

My passion is both in ensuring financial sustainability as well as creating structure to organisations, with a clear purpose stakeholders align with.

Ongoing and recently completed roles include:

- Business Manager – Aitken Partners, Melbourne based law firm
- Board Chair and Director – Alex Makes Meals, Food relief charity
- Owner 400 cow dairy farm, Denison Gippsland
- Owner Nexus Herd Development

Over the last 10 years I have also invested significantly in personal development as a leader including:

- AICD – Company Directors Course
- ARLF – Australian Rural Leadership Program
- Rabobank – Executive Development Program
- ISL – Strategic Leadership Programme
- Melbourne Men's Group – Awakening the Conscious Man

Having current interests and experience both inside and outside of the Herd Improvement industry will hold me in good stead to steer NHIA into the future.

Ronnie Hibma 0428 639 875

nexusherd@gmail.com

Chris Kendall

I am a dairy management specialist with expertise in herd management solutions. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin, USA, with a degree in Dairy Science and have successfully owned and managed several large corporate dairies in Australia, ranging from 300 to 1600 cows. My extensive practical knowledge includes managing and developing large dairies and understanding key performance indicators for sustainability.

In 2007, I completed Reproductive Management training (AI) in the USA and have since been performing AI and pregnancy testing on cows and heifers. I also teach AI training courses for herd employees and resellers in Australia and assist with advanced AI courses in the USA.

Currently, I work for World Wide/Select Sires, collaborating with dairy farms that range from 600 to 5,500 milking cows, overseeing key areas of herd reproduction and transition management. I have implemented dairy cow accelerometer systems (Cow Manager) to measure daily cow heat activity, eating, rumination, and temperature, offering valuable insights into changing reproduction behaviours.

My extensive experience in practical management, teaching, and on-farm data analysis is crucial for herd improvement. Working with a diverse range of dairy and beef customers both locally and internationally, I stay updated on industry growth, support needs, and emerging trends and tools for herd improvement.

Chris Kendall 0427 487 743

ckendall@wwsaustralia.com

Anna Norgren

I am pleased to forward my nomination for your consideration as a Director of the NHIA board.

I was brought up on a dairy farm in Sweden where I achieved my Master's degree in Agricultural Science in 2004 before moving to Australia in 2008 to pursue my career in animal genetics.

I have worked in the AI industry in various roles both domestically and internationally for all my professional career with Viking Genetics and DeLaval and in 2020 I joined ST Genetics Australia.

I am very dedicated and passionate in all aspects of the dairy industry and in my current role with genomic testing to help farmers and service providers to improve their businesses.

Over my career I have developed managerial skills and an understanding of governance, and I will bring these skills to the NHIA board.

I am working with a wide range of people within the genetic evaluation industry, both within Australia and internationally, and have the skill set to contribute to the evolution of the genetic / genomic service offering in Australia.

Anna Norgren 0407 476 597

Anna.Norgren@stgen.com

Adam Sawell

I have supported NHIA's role as a strong, independent body that effectively represents the herd improvement sector to the Australian dairy and beef industries since first working in the industry.

I firmly believe that NHIA is unique in bringing herd improvement businesses together and representing them with one voice, and it is imperative that this continues into the future.

My passion for clear, concise communication, the need to both retain people and attract a new generation to the sector, the importance of industry collaboration, and my belief in the ongoing role that NHIA needs to play in these areas are why I am nominating for the Board.

I have worked with breed associations, industry bodies, and organisations in dairy and herd improvement for 8 years in marketing and business advisory roles. Prior to this, I operated marketing and commercial consultancies in Australia and the UK, primarily for member-based organisations.

Adam Sawell 0401 096 507

ASawell@holstein.com.au

Geoffrey Watts

Growing up in Maffra East Gippsland, I married a passionate Jersey girl. We purchased a 120-cow dairy farm in partnership with my father-in-law, which we both ran. Tough times required extra income.

I was offered the opportunity to become a partner in a furniture business where I worked in sales for nine years, we eventually sold out of both the furniture business and Dairy Farm (15 Years). In between this time, I volunteered to be a mentor for businesses in the Wellington Shire via a Shire program to help support businesses achieve their goals.

Another opportunity than came up to work in Sales for Gippsland Herd Improvement, after several years I was approached by Genetics Australia and took up the role as regional sales manager spanning over a 16-year period. I was then asked by Alta Genetics Australia if I was open to managing the Australian operation which I started in 2018 and still manage.

I can bring a great deal of experience with over 40 plus years involved in the industry both working and managing a dairy farm, working for a service provider, mentoring business, sales and managing a large Genetics company which has grown in revenue and profits year on year, and now employ 16 people.

Geoffrey Watts 0458 604 102

geoffrey.watts@altagenetics.com